

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) Proposal

In November 2002, the Tribal Council of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians adopted a Final Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan (THCP). The purpose of the Plan is to balance the Tribe's traditional balanced approach to land use and resource management and to provide support for the Tribe's application to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for a section 10 (a) permit and Implementing Agreement.

The THCP incorporates adaptive management and commits to biological monitoring to maintain a healthy habitat for the life of the permit, 75 years. Further, initial assessments, inventory, and monitoring are mandated for the first three years to establish baseline data on the presence of sensitive species covered under the Plan, as well as, document any environmental changes that occur.

The THCP identifies two distinct areas on the Reservation: the Valley Floor Conservation Area (VFCA) and the Mountains and Canyons Conservation Area (MCCA). This grant proposal mainly focuses on developing monitoring protocols for riparian obligate species found within the Mountains and Canyons Conservation Area. The duration of the proposed work will include two field seasons for each identified covered species, with the first year including training Tribal staff where appropriate. Additionally, along with training, equipment will be purchased, which can be used in subsequent years.